Racial profiling practices at EU's internal borders

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This is a joint publication of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM).

ENAR is a pan-European network of 160 member organisations across 31 countries. ENAR aims to build a resilient anti-racist network to lead the struggle for racial equality by challenging structural racism and mobilising to counter its various manifestations. ENAR provides spaces for anti-racist CSOs and activists to liaise and participate in democratic policy- and decision-making processes in their local and national contexts. It conducts direct policy work in collaboration with its members at the global, national, and–particularly–the European Union (EU) levels. ENAR aims to strengthen cooperation between the anti-racism movement and social movements working on social, economic, digital, and climate justice issues, which disproportionately affect racialised people in Europe.

PICUM was founded in 2001 as an initiative of grassroots organisations. Now representing a network of 155 organisations working with and for undocumented migrants in more than 30 countries, PICUM has built a comprehensive evidence base regarding the gap between international human rights law and the policies and practices existing at national and EU levels. With nearly twenty five years of evidence, experience and expertise on issues affecting undocumented migrants, PICUM promotes recognition of their fundamental rights, providing an essential link between local realities and the debates at the policy level. PICUM approaches migration through the lens of racial justice, recognising how race, ethnicity and migration status intersect in systems of discrimination and exclusion.

This booklet was edited by Emmanuel Achiri, Policy Advisor at ENAR, Gianluca Cesaro, Senior Communications Officer at PICUM, Garyfallia Mylona, Advocacy Officer at PICUM, and Michele LeVoy, Director at PICUM.

These stories are a collection of first-hand accounts and observations contributed by field researchers affiliated with ENAR, as well as additional accounts of racialisation shared by ENAR advisors. We wish to thank all those who contributed to this publication and are especially grateful to those who shared their personal stories.

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Introduction

Racial profiling[1] under the guise of migration control has long been present at Europe's borders. Far from being a matter of isolated bias, it is embedded in systemic practices of policing, border control and migration management infrastructures.[2] Racialised people are routinely subjected to discriminatory stops, identity checks, searches and harassment across member states.[3] Throughout Europe, the convergence of policing and immigration enforcement is tightening, inflicting disproportionate harm on communities of colour.[4]

This booklet aims to challenge and expose how racialisation operates at and through the internal borders of Europe: how it is legitimised and normalised, how it seeps into everyday life, and how it contributes to the broader racialisation of mobility, security and belonging.

By spotlighting border regions in the Basque Country, France, Germany, and Croatia, this work demonstrates how immigration enforcement and the broader logics of European migration governance amplify racialisation and violence at the EU's internal borders. These mechanisms normalise insecurity, state-enabled harm and the erosion of dignity for all racialised people, targeting not only migrants but also persons of colour within Europe.

For the purposes of this work, racialisation is understood as a diffuse process that extends beyond the moment of border crossing. It permeates everyday life, manifesting in practices of surveillance, exclusion, and socio-spatial differentiation enacted by state authorities and local actors alike. Bordering, therefore, is not only a geopolitical act but also a social and racial one, shaping who is suspect, who is stopped, and who belongs.

This booklet compiles direct accounts provided by individuals who personally experienced or witnessed racial profiling. It offers only a glimpse of what people endure every day while crossing Europe's internal borders. By telling these stories, we hope to contribute to the goal of ending racial profiling, in border contexts and beyond.

Basque Country

The Basque Country is one of the main access points from Spain into France. The presence of major transportation routes, including railways and highways, makes the Irun-Hendaye (known as Hendaia in Basque) border area, situated between Spain's Gipuzkoa province in the Basque Country and France's Pyrénées-Atlantiques department of the Nouvelle Aquitaine region, a focal point of movement and control.

Pervasive racial profiling and disproportionate policing by migration enforcement authorities have been reported at official border crossings and within everyday public spaces. Individuals often describe being singled out by police based on skin colour or perceived foreignness, subjected to repeated identity checks, and treated with hostility or humiliation.

In Hendaia we all know each other and we know who is racialised, who are immigrants and who are adopted. There are two sisters I know from school. They are even stopped walking around Hendaia village centre, not only at the border. There is another man, I don't know if he has French or Spanish citizenship, but he has always lived there, even the police know him, but they always stop him, because he is black.

- Young girl, Chinese origin, Spanish citizenship, resident of Hendaia

Many people are afraid to come to Irun because they say that there are more controls. A few years ago, we heard: "Do not to go near the Renfe train station in Irun, in the Topo[5] of Irun, in Paseo Colón they are asking for papers", or "Police are asking for papers at the Amara station.[6]

- Woman, Nicaraguan origin, French citizenship

The second time, I managed to get on the bus to Bayonne. On the way I was stopped by the French police and they told me: "Hey, can we see the passport?" And I didn't have papers or anything. And there they took me down again, they took us to the police, they insulted us, they told us everything: "Why are you coming here, why can't we stay in our countries and that we are bothering Europeans". In the end I decided to stay in Irun because I am not going to suffer again to cross a border. I didn't want to have a bad time again with everything I went through to get here. That's why in the end I decided to stay and make my life here. But I have a lot of friends who went there, who treated them badly. They left them on the ground without feeding them or water or anything. And it's a border, really, it's a racist border for me.

- Man, Ivory Coast, resident of Irun

I was going with my mother, who is black of Indian descent. They had just opened the bridges, after COVID. We did the whole bike tour of the Bidasoa. When we left the French side they didn't tell us anything. But when coming back through Behobia, suddenly, a policeman sees us and begins to shout at us, "Stop, stop!" The two of them start running and one stands in front of us and stops us and tells us, "Your documents". On top of that, there were a lot of people walking because it was a very good day. It's a humiliation that this is happening to us. People look at you. That they are questioning your existence here. You're walking around like everyone else, dressed in sports clothes. But simply because of the colour of their skin. If you're white or blond, nothing, you pass quietly. And with my mother, too. I can't stand when the police stops my mother. It's something that, since I was little, I've always hated, I've seen it a lot and I've never liked it. And then he tells us, "Your documents", and we tell him, "But we are French", and he tells us again "The papers", in a super disrespectful manner.

- Young woman, Indo-African origins, French citizenship, resident of Hendaia

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POLICIA

POLICE
POLICE

Whenever I pass by, I see document controls, and if you don't have documentation they return you to the border (...) Africans and Maghrebis are always stopped. I have already proven that. (...) Latin Americans are stopped too, for example, when they go to drop off their daughters, their child at school, they asked for documentation and, since a residence card has to be accompanied by a passport, many are told "This time you pass, next time no. You have to bring the passport in Hendaia". African women and girls always commented that they had to walk around with their passports, even if they were accompanying their children because if not, they would not let them pass.

- Woman, Nicaraguan origin, French citizenship

A week ago, just when I returned from vacation in Guinea, I had to take things to the family. We were in the Topo train. When we arrived in Hendaia, we all left together, and when it was my turn to enter the station, I was the only African who was there. Then they let everybody in, and when they saw me, they came straight to ask me, and I asked, in French, "Why do you have to stop me and ask? Why haven't you asked the rest?" And one told me that I didn't have the right to ask that. I told him, "I'm not afraid, if you start doing those things, you think it's your way of teaching me that you're from the police, then that's your problem, but I'm not afraid". The policeman then said "Ok, there is control for people who don't have papers". "People who don't have papers?" I asked. "No, the Africans," said the policeman. "Ah, okay, okay, I understand", and at that moment I gave him my passport and they let me in.

- Man, Guinea Conakry, resident in Irun

French Border with Italy

In 2015, France reintroduced internal border controls. Initially set for a temporary period, these measures have been extended every six months, often citing security concerns. In 2022, the Court of the European Union (CJEU) decided in Joined Cases C-368/20 and C-369/20 that such controls contravene European Union law unless there is a serious and inherent threat to public policy or internal security. Nonetheless, France continues to maintain these controls.

Witness reports gathered along the French-Italian border region reveal how racial profiling and discrimination have become routine features of border policing. Across Menton, Ventimiglia, and nearby crossings, racialised residents and travellers describe being disproportionately stopped, searched, and questioned, often despite holding valid documents. Accounts highlight a pattern in which Black, Arab, and Roma individuals are treated with suspicion and subjected to harsher scrutiny than white passengers, exposing how everyday border controls reproduce racial hierarchies within the Schengen area.

During observations conducted on trains in this region, ENAR researchers consistently noted that police subjected racialised passengers to more stringent identity checks than white passengers. In two separate cases, Black passengers who presented valid ID cards were still asked to show passports, while white passengers were never asked for additional documents. This pattern was confirmed by Arlene Acquaye, an Italian student of Ghanaian descent, who was stopped while travelling from Ventimiglia to Menton. Despite showing a valid Italian ID, the officer demanded her passport. When she explained that EU citizens do not need passports to cross the Franco-Italian border, the officer eventually conceded but still advised her to "carry it next time."

Such practices reveal a heightened suspicion toward racialised individuals, forcing them to constantly justify their right to move. Even when no extra documents were requested, officers often examined passports of racialised passengers more thoroughly than those of white EU citizens. These discriminatory patterns contribute to the "singling out" of racialised people as potentially undocumented travellers.

In some cases, people holding valid Italian residence permits - or even Italian ID cards - were nonetheless subjected to readmission procedures. On 18 August 2024, researchers met a young man from Cameroon who had lived in Sondrio, Italy, for four years. During his two-week vacation, he planned to visit friends in France, confident his documents would suffice: an Italian ID, residence permit, and European Health Insurance Card. Yet upon arrival at Garavan station, police asked for his passport. When he could not provide one, he was removed from the train and taken to the PAF (Police aux Frontières) station[7], despite showing his Italian work contract. He was not issued a readmission sheet, meaning his expulsion was illegal and not documented.

This case illustrates how racialised EU residents can be subjected to unlawful pushbacks, even when they possess the right to travel freely within the Union.

Researchers documented an incident reported by a witness at Menton Garavan station, where police checks appeared to target only certain passengers based on perceived race. According to the account, officers inspected the papers of three Black men - two of whom were described as very young - before ordering them off the train when they failed to produce identification. The officers reportedly used dismissive gestures, such as snapping their fingers, to signal them to leave. In contrast, when encountering a white family who voluntarily mentioned being Swiss and not carrying their documents, the police reportedly responded leniently, indicating it was "no problem" and merely reminding them that travellers are "usually supposed to have their papers." The witness also noted that neither they nor other white passengers in the same carriage were asked to present identification.

Researchers also met a man from Gambia, living and working in Brescia, who was arrested by French border police (PAF) while trying to take a bus to Marseille. Although his residence permit was in the process of renewal, he was handcuffed and mistreated by officers:

"The police treat you like you've done something wrong... If you don't want me in your country, that's okay, I'll leave, but don't treat me like a criminal... If you ask to go to the bathroom, they don't listen, they treat you like an animal."

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Criminalisation also manifests through more subtle, everyday interactions—stares, suspicion, or invasive surveillance. A Roma woman from Bosnia described being watched on a train before being asked for documents, leaving her feeling frightened and humiliated.

Other respondents echoed similar experiences: a man from Senegal observed, "If one is Black, one is targeted," while several Arab respondents noted that police are harsh both toward people without papers and toward those with legal documents. Women wearing hijabs were described as particularly vulnerable, often feeling unsafe in public spaces. An Algerian woman described feeling uneasy not only around police but in public spaces generally, especially as a woman wearing the hijab. She said some of her hijab-wearing friends now feel unsafe using public transport, and that her own mother no longer goes out at night because she fears harassment.

She further shared that this sense of insecurity is new for her; having grown up in France she once felt integrated, but now for the first time she feels unsafe in her own society.

This is a sentiment widely shared among racialized residents who fear harassment and discrimination in their daily lives.

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Germany

In 2015, Germany reintroduced internal border controls along its border with Austria, in response to the so-called migration crisis. These measures were expanded in 2023 to include borders with Switzerland, Poland and the Czech Republic. Since September 2024, Germany has reinstated internal border checks at all land borders (also including borders with the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France). The Federal Police reported conducting 6.1 million checks at German borders in 2024, more than double the previous year's figures, with the significant increase attributed to extended random searchers, "Schleierfahndung"[8], up to 30 kilometers away in border areas.[9] Complaints about unjustified checks based on physical appearance have risen, suggesting a pattern of discriminatory practices. The following testimonies shed light on the impact of these policies.

Internal borders, Germany

An association[10] supporting refugees at the German-Czech border described to the researchers how the reform of the Schengen Borders Code expanded police powers and shifted crucial decisions about asylum into the hands of those who are neither trained nor legally mandated to make them. It reflects a wider pattern where humanitarian protection at European internal borders is swiftly being replaced by border enforcement where racialised logics determine whose movement is legitimate.

At Germany's internal borders, police officers now play a gatekeeping role that should belong to asylum authorities. People crossing the border often cite multiple reasons for entering – such as joining family, seeking safety, or finding work – but police frequently reduce these motives to a single economic one. In doing so, they dismiss valid asylum claims, effectively denying individuals their right to seek protection. Reports from refugee support organisations reveal that officers sometimes provide false advice to people to state they are coming for study or work, later using this as justification for refusal or deportation. As members of the association at the German-Czech border shared with the researchers:

"It is not for the police to evaluate what interest is stronger for a person to enter the country. As soon as they say they want to apply for asylum, it is irrelevant that they might also want to find work in Germany. The police advise them to indicate that they do not want to apply for asylum but for studies and work. The police use this information as a pretext to legitimate the subsequent return, arguing that they did not in fact want to apply for asylum but wanted to study or work."

This discretionary practice illustrates how the expansion of police authority – under the guise of managing "irregular migration" – produces arbitrary and racialised exclusions.

Those fleeing persecution from so-called "safe countries of origin," such as Kurdish people from Turkey, are routinely dismissed as undeserving of asylum. Although the police officially acknowledge that they are not competent to assess asylum claims, in practice they act as adjudicators, relying on standardised questionnaires rather than legal expertise.

By transforming police officers into de facto asylum gatekeepers, the state not only undermines the asylum system but also deepens racialisation within migration control. The right to seek asylum becomes contingent on subjective police interpretation – on who "looks" like a refugee and who does not. This reveals how the politics of control and suspicion extend far beyond the border itself, turning racialised bodies into permanent sites of scrutiny and exclusion.

Kehl train station, Germany

This testimony was shared by Sandra Alloush, interim Chair of ENAR, a Syrian journalist, filmmaker, and human rights advocate based in France, whose work focuses on migration, anti-racism, and social justice.

While travelling this morning from Strasbourg, France, to Berlin, Germany, I was stopped by the German border police at the train station in Kehl, right on the French-German border, for not carrying a valid passport. I presented my valid French permanent residency permit, along with my expired travel document and the official paper confirming that its renewal is in process. Despite this, I was treated with extreme hostility.

I was violently arrested, threatened with further violence, taken to the police station, stripped naked by officers, and subjected to a humiliating body search. All my belongings were searched. I was taken into detention, fingerprinted, photographed, made to sign papers under the threat of not being released, and treated as though I were a criminal. After hours of this degrading treatment, I was forced to walk back to France.

While the physical ordeal was painful, the trauma and psychosocial damage inflicted were even deeper. As a refugee, a woman, and a human rights advocate, I am shaken not only by the violence of this experience but also by the sheer normalization of such abuse at borders.

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Croatia

Since Croatia's accession to the Schengen Area in January 2023, internal border controls with neighbouring EU countries were abolished. However, citing security concerns, a few months later Slovenia reintroduced temporary internal border checks with Croatia, which have been extended multiple times and remain in place.

Concerns persist regarding human rights practices at Croatia's internal and external borders. Border enforcement practices have been marked by systemic racial profiling and unlawful pushbacks, particularly at the Croatian-Bosnian route.[11] Testimonies from racialised individuals traveling through Croatia further illustrate these practices.

Zagreb train station, Croatia

This testimony by an ENAR researcher describes a harrowing encounter of racial profiling at Zagreb's main train station in October 2024, where police singled out passengers based on appearance and nationality.

As I waited for the train to Ljubljana at Zagreb's main station in October 2024, nine police officers gathered nearby, preparing to search the train for undocumented individuals and spreading out around the station. I noticed a young male police officer scrutinizing one man coded as "foreign," in particular, as we all stood near the train entrance, scanning him from top to bottom. The man, who appeared to be in his forties, wore a winter hat and carried a rucksack, a small travel bag, and a shopping bag.

I entered the same train carriage as he did, where two male passengers were already seated. Later, I learned that the man who entered with me was from Bangladesh, registered as a worker with a Schengen visa in Croatia, and was planning a one-day trip to visit a friend in Italy. The other passenger was from Slovenia, travelling with his ID card, and the second was from Albania. The four of us—including myself, a Croatian man in my thirties—each had slightly darker complexions.

From the next carriage, I heard the officer calling out, "Documents, dokumenti!" before he entered ours with the same request. As the Slovenian man and I said, "Dobar dan," meaning "Good day" in Croatian, I noticed the officer addressing the man from Bangladesh with, "Documents...visa?" while also asking all of us for identification. The man showed his passport with the visa. From that point, I observed ambiguity in the officer's approach—he

seemed uncertain about how to categorize us. Based on appearance and the fact that we were sitting together, we could fit his profile of who he might be looking for. However, half of us greeting him in Croatian and our relatively neat dress seemed to complicate his perception.

He then asked the man across from me where he was from, and the man responded with "Albania," to which the officer replied, "Ok." Looking at the two of us who hadn't yet shown our documents, he asked, "You are ours (naši[12])? Okay," and then left. From another carriage, I heard a police officer telling a colleague, "Take him outside."

Moments later, I saw through the window a thin young man with darker skin and curly hair surrounded by three officers, holding his train ticket. One officer stood uncomfortably close, adopting an aggressive stance within the man's personal space. The young man shook his leg anxiously, explaining something, and after a moment, the officers handed him back his ticket, waiting as he made a phone call. The train eventually departed.

When we reached the Slovenian border at Dobova, Slovenian officers also requested our documents. This time, mine was checked more thoroughly than by the Croatian officers, highlighting how I was perceived as more foreign at this border. Meanwhile, the man from Albania, who had managed to travel through Croatia with just his ID card, was removed from the train as he didn't have the passport required to enter the Schengen area. As they escorted him off, I overheard them asking, "Where are you going?" When he replied, "Slovenia," they responded, "Why?" and said, "You do not have documents; you have to go back."

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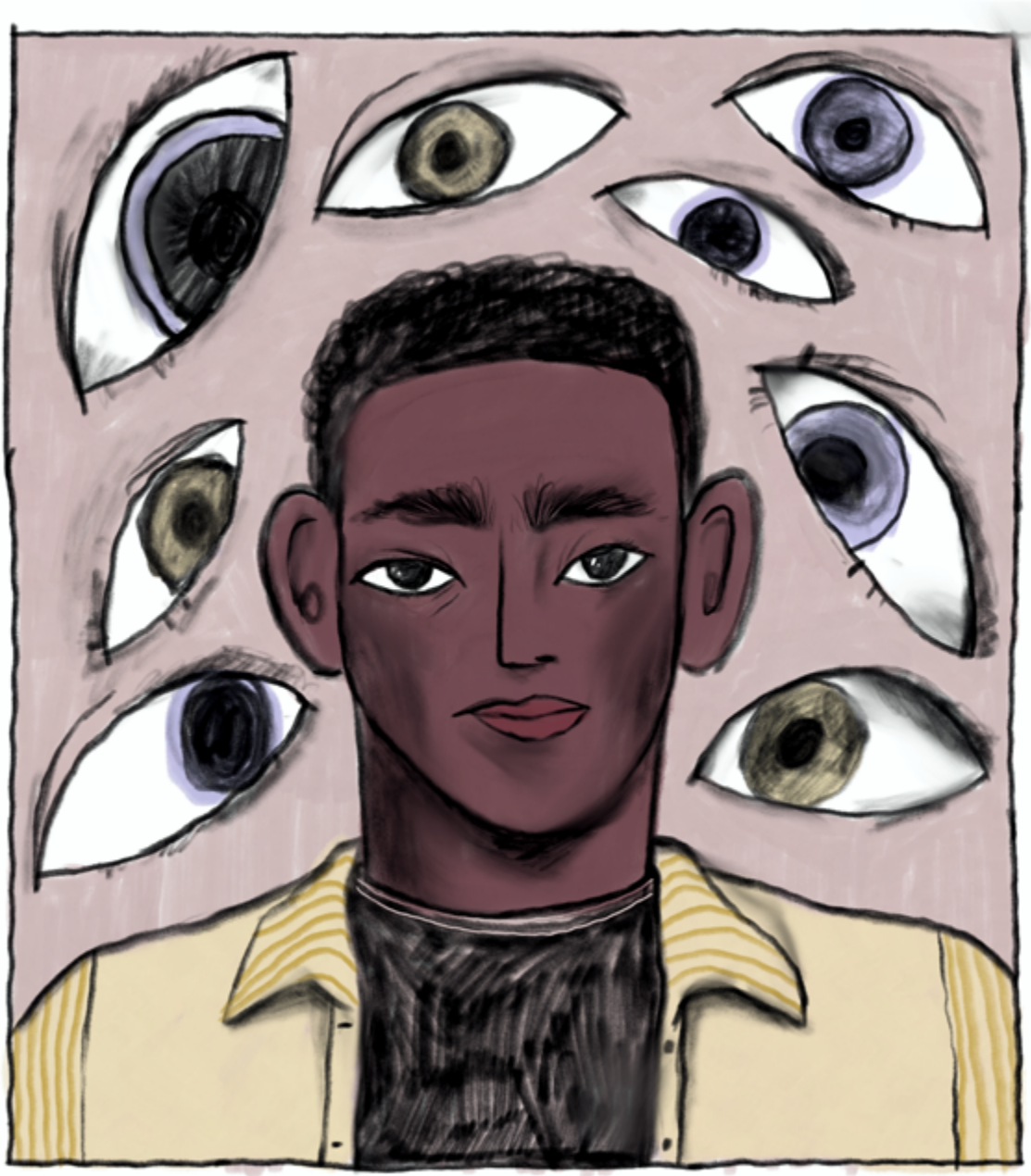
TRAIN
TICKET



Zagreb airport, Croatia

This testimony recounts an incident of racial profiling and unlawful detention at Zagreb airport on June 11, 2024. It was shared by Emmanuel Achiri, Policy and Advocacy Advisor at the European Network Against Racism (ENAR).[13]

"On June 11, 2024, I was at Zagreb airport returning to Brussels after a vacation in Croatia. While taking a walk before my delayed flight, I was approached by two police officers who demanded my documents without providing a reason. When I requested a legal justification, they refused. A third officer then asked me if I am Croatian and I asked for the relevance of that question. He then replied that Croatia is a homogenously white society, and because I am black this grants them the right to request my documents. I asked him if he knew this was racial profiling, to which he asserted racial profiling is lawful in Croatia, despite Croatia being an EU member where such profiling is unlawful.

I was the only Black person in the area, and bystanders immediately noticed the officers' behaviour.

Some intervened, offering their own documents to the officers to show that the stop was discriminatory. The officers refused to check their documents, and insisted on only checking mine. I repeatedly requested the presence of a commanding officer so I could file a complaint, but my requests were denied. At one point, one officer threatened me with physical violence. I remained calm, documenting the encounter and asking bystanders to record the incident.

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Over the next two hours, more officers joined, forming a cordon around me. I was handcuffed and escorted to a FRONTEX office, where I was detained, searched, and had my bags opened without explanation. Officers repeatedly refused to tell me why I was being held or provide their badge numbers. I was pressured to sign a document in Croatian stating I had committed a misdemeanour by refusing to show my documents. I refused to sign, as I could not understand the language and because I refused the stated claim.

Throughout the encounter, I maintained that I would cooperate if allowed to file a complaint or meet a commanding officer. Colleagues from ENAR and lawyers from the Center for Peace Studies Croatia were in communication with me and alerted the Ombudswoman. Bystanders also recorded videos of the incident, confirming the racial profiling.

Eventually, after over two hours of detention, I was issued a fine of €60 plus additional expenses. My passport and ID were returned, and I was escorted out. Unsurprisingly, this was after my flight had taken off. "

The Way Forward

Racialised identity checks, disproportionate surveillance, border control practices that single out people of colour, and the merging of migration enforcement and policing are patterns documented in this work, adding to the long list of evidence that racial profiling under the guise of migration control remains commonplace at the EU's borders.

Migration governance is not racially neutral. Migration policies produce and perpetuate racial inequalities within and beyond European borders.[14] Although the first ever EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025[15] was a step toward tackling racism within the EU, it did not confront structural and institutional racism, especially as it relates to migration policy. While the plan names structural racism as the "underlying problem", it did not acknowledge or address how EU migration laws and practices perpetuate discrimination against racialised and migrant communities.[16]

Since the adoption of the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, a wave of legislative shifts at the EU level have made these omissions more visible. The 2024 reform of the Schengen Borders Code[17] brought in new measures that not only legitimise racial profiling at Europe's internal borders, but also risk intensifying it within EU member states. The broader architecture of current European migration governance, from the Migration Pact[18] and the proposed revision of the Facilitators' Package,[19] to the most recent Return Regulation proposal[20] collectively create an ecosystem of systemic unsafety for racialised communities. The creeping deployment of technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in border management further compounds existing discriminatory practices against them.[21] Against this backdrop, existing anti-discrimination and anti-racism frameworks remain insufficient to protect migrant and racialized communities.

The forthcoming 2026-2030 renewal of the EU Anti-Racism Strategy[22] offers an opportunity to redress these shortcomings. The new strategy, and all anti-racism initiatives, should explicitly address the link between EU anti-racism efforts and migration policies, and commit to integrate racial equality across EU policies that institutionalise racism through migration enforcement policies, and notably border violence, racial profiling, and discriminatory surveillance. It must ensure genuine coordination between EU, national, and local levels, with full participation of civil-society organisations and communities directly affected. At the same time, it must embed an intersectional, historically informed understanding of racism, not as an aberration but as foundational in shaping European societies and invest in community-driven initiatives promoting equity, justice and safety, built on solidarity rather than surveillance, control, or criminalisation.[23]

Finally, EU institutions should shift away from any legislation that would exacerbate racial profiling or institutionalise discrimination under the pretext of migration control. Any proposed, negotiated or future migration-related legislation should be subject to rigorous impact assessments on racial equality and human rights. Anti-racism should also be mainstreamed across all relevant EU policy areas.

Only then can anti-racism efforts have meaningful effect and begin to address the systemic injustices that persist in the EU's migration and border system. Anti-racism should be a structural and uncompromising commitment to justice and equity that transforms laws, policies, and practices so they safeguard the dignity and rights of racialised communities by default.

Further Readings

- ENAR, 2025, The New Anti-Racism Strategy: A Defining Moment for Europe's Future.
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), 2024, Addressing Racism in Policing.
- FRA, 2023, Stop discrimination and ethnic profiling in Europe.
- PICUM, 2024, Exclusion by design: Unveiling unequal treatment and racial inequalities in migration policies.

Endnotes

1 Racial profiling is a specific form of racial discrimination, which the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) General Policy Recommendation n°11 defines as "use by the police, with no objective or reasonable justification, of grounds such as 'race', colour, language, religion, citizenship or national or ethnic origin in control, surveillance or investigation activities".

2 See also European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), 2024, Addressing Racism in Policing, and FRA, 2023, Stop discrimination and ethnic profiling in Europe.

3 See also PICUM, PICUM's submission to the European Commission's call for evidence on the EU Anti-Racism Strategy 2026-2030.

4 PICUM, 2024, Racial profiling, policing, and immigration control.

5 "Topo" is the name of the regional metro train line in the Basque Country, connecting the towns of Irun and Donostia/San Sebastián, as well as surrounding areas, with Hendaye. The respondent refers to the Irun Topo station.

6 The Amara station is located at Donostia/ San Sebastián town in the Basque country and is also served by the Topo service.

7 Border police station.

8 The term Schleierfahndung' ('veil search') is used metaphorically to describe the 'veil-like' distribution and appearance of police forces who act covertly, flexibly, and away from stationary checkpoints. MTR Legal, Concept and Meaning of "Schleierfahndung" (source in German).

9 The number includes checks conducted at Germany's external borders as well. Nd.Aktuell, 27 February 2025, Almost doubling racial profiling: The Left Party calls for an end to unjustified controls at the internal borders, the German government focuses on better training (in German). Last checked on 27 October 2025.

10 To prevent any risk of criminalisation, the association chose to remain anonymous.

11 Human Rights Watch, 2023, "Like We Were Just Animals": Pushbacks of People Seeking Protection from Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

12 "Naši" means "our/ours" in Croatian.

13 For Emmanuel's full story, read https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7207007805210292225/

14 See PICUM, 2024, Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW); Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice, 2022, Ending Fortress Europe: Recommendations for a racial justice approach to EU migration policy.

15 European Commission, 2020, A Union of equality: EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025.

16 See also PICUM, 2024, Exclusion by design: Unveiling unequal treatment and racial inequalities in migration policies; Abigail Cárdenas Mena, 2021, The EU's Migration and Anti-Racism policies: are we ready for a racism-free Europe? Part two of a series of PICUM blogs looking at the intersection between racism and migration policy.

17 Council of the EU, 24 May 2024, Schengen area: Council adopts update of Schengen Borders Code, Press Release; Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders, 2021/0428(COD).

18 See ENAR's analysis on the racialisation of migration in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. See also PICUM's Pact series: Analysis of the Asylum Procedure Regulation and Return Border Procedure Regulation, Analysis of the Screening Regulation, Children's rights in the 2024 Migration and Asylum Pact.

19 See PICUM, 2024, How the New EU Facilitation Directive Furthers the Criminalisation of Migrants and Human Rights Defenders.

20 See Open letter, PICUM and others, 2025, Over 250 Organisations: Inhumane Deportation Rules Should be Rejected. See also PICUM and Médecins du Monde, 2025, Unprotected: How proposed EU rules on deportation threaten the universal right to health.

21 PICUM, 2022, Regulating migration tech: how the EU's AI Act can better protect people on the move.

22 European Commission, 2025, Call for evidence on the EU Anti-Racism Strategy.

23 For more, read ENAR, 2025, The New Anti-Racism Strategy: A Defining Moment for Europe's Future; PICUM, 2025, PICUM's submission to the European Commission's call for evidence on the EU Anti-Racism Strategy 2026-2030.

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